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the Commissioner for the year ending June, 1895, comprises reports on the propagation and distribution of food fishes, by W. C. DeRavenal; on food fishes and fishing grounds, by Richard Rathbun; and on the statistics and methods of the fisheries, by H. M. Smith. In addition there are several papers based on the work of the Commission. These comprise the investigations of the steamer Albatross by Lieut. Com. F. J. Drake; Biscayne Bay as a Marine Hatching and Experiment Station, by H. M. Smith; Transplanting of Eastern Oysters to Willapa Bay, Washington, by C. H. Townsend; Description of a New Shad from Alabama, by B. W. Evermann; and a Check-List of the Fishes and Fossil-like Vertebrates of North and Middle America, by D. S. Jordan and B. W. Evermann.

These various papers demonstrate the importance of the work carried on by the Commission, both from an economic and scientific standpoint. From year to year this organization accumulates and records an immense amount of information that stands for all time as reliable data.

**Hand-book of British Birds.**<sup>3</sup>—This book comprises an enumeration of every species of birds on the British list, with descriptions of nearly all the species named. Records of the rarer forms have been carefully collected, and a tolerably complete life-history of the common species is given. In the nomenclature the author adopts the American system of trinominals, as he sees no other way of allowing a name to a recognized race without giving it the rank of a species. In all, Mr. Swann recognizes 381 species which are referred to 208 genera. The volume constitutes a handy reference book for the student afield.

**A List of Periodicals.**—Nearly twenty years ago a small pamphlet was published containing a list of scientific periodicals, transactions of learned societies, etc. accessible in the libraries in the vicinity of Boston. The list became antiquated and has long been out of print. In the present year the Boston Public Library has taken up the same idea and the result is a list of periodicals, etc.,<sup>4</sup> which must be of the greatest value to students in any line as it is a catalogue of the largest collection of serial publications accessible in any locality in America. Unlike its modest predecessor, it is not limited to science but embraces the periodicals of all kinds contained in thirty-six libraries in Boston,

<sup>3</sup> A Concise Handbook of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann. London, 1896.

<sup>4</sup> A list of periodicals, newspapers, transactions, and other serial publications currently received in the principal libraries of Boston and vicinity. Boston: The Trustees of the Public Library, 1897, pp. 143.